



# Youth Basketball - Grade 2



Welcome to the Westport Parks and Recreation Grade 2 Basketball Program. This program is designed to introduce young children to the sport of basketball. Instruction in all fundamentals and skills will be offered in the first half-hour and then instruction in game-like situations will take place during the second half-hour. Children play on 8 foot baskets and use a junior size ball. Boys and girls will be separated. At the end of the program, all participants will receive a participation award. The program takes place at **King's Highway School**.

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [WWW.WESPORTBASKETBALL.ORG](http://WWW.WESPORTBASKETBALL.ORG) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAM**

## **VOLUNTEERS**

The Youth Basketball Grade 2 program encompasses some 24 volunteer coaches each year. We need these volunteer coaches so that the youth of our community can be provided the opportunity to play the sport in a safe, healthy and positive environment. If a parent/guardian is interested in coaching on either a head coach or assistant coach level, please contact **Karen Puskas, Program Manager, 341-5087 or at [Kpuskas@westportct.gov](mailto:Kpuskas@westportct.gov)**. All coaches must be trained, certified and educated before being assigned to a team by going through the NYSCA Coaching Certification. Dates for certification can be found in the Westport Parks and Recreation Program Guide or you may visit the basketball web site at [www.westportbasketball.org](http://www.westportbasketball.org). This is a 2-hour course that must be pre-registered for. Again, call for more information.

## **GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The Grade 2 Basketball program is available to both boys and girls. The program takes place on Saturdays at **Kings Highway Elementary School**. The dates are as follows:

**December 6, 13, 20, January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 28, March 7**

**Program times for boys will be between 11:00 am and 5:30 pm. The program times for girls will be between 8:30 am and 11:00 am. The team you are assigned to will rotate play each week for 1 hour within this time slot. This year, participants will be learning the game of basketball through 3 on 3 play. Children will be assigned to a team and play "mini" games each week within their group while being instructed on the fundamentals of the game.**

**Two teams will be assigned to the gym each hour between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm. The schedule will rotate each week. Team schedules will be available at the start of the program.**

While this is an indoor program, inclement weather could cancel the activity on Saturdays. No make-ups will be offered.

## **CANCELLATION LINE**

To keep up to date on program cancellations due to inclement weather, please call our cancellation line, **341-5074**, visit our web site, listen to WICC radio 600 AM or watch Channel 8 Action News.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Attire for this program should be your game T-shirt that will be provided, shorts or sweatpants, sneakers with socks. While we provide balls each week, you may bring your own but we are not responsible for it if it is lost. Please make sure your name and phone number is on it just in case. **THIS PROGRAM USES A BASKETBALL THAT IS A JUNIOR SIZE BALL, 27.5 INCHES IN CIRCUMFERENCE.** No jewelry, watches, etc.

### **1. Transportation:**

Children enrolled in the program only should be dropped off NO EARLIER than 5 minutes prior to their scheduled gym time and must be picked up IMMEDIATELY after their practice or game. Consistent lateness in either dropping off or picking up is cause for dismissal from the program. The police will be notified of children left unsupervised for long periods of time.

**The coaches and the staff will be responsible for your child that is registered for the program during the time they are required to be in attendance only. Siblings, friends and/or neighborhood children are not to be left with the child participating in the program. This is cause for immediate dismissal from the program. Please do not ask.**

### **2. Gymnasium Rules:**

There is no eating of any kind of food at any time as well as no drinking of any items at any time. This includes but is not limited to **coffee**, danish, donuts, soda, juice, cookies, fruit and the like. Water fountains are available for spectators in the gymnasium vicinity. Water bottles are allowed for participants only. Do not be offended if our staff does not allow you into the gymnasium or asks you to leave if you violate this policy.

We ask that parents who bring children to the program to watch the participant and are not participating to monitor them and keep them in control at all times. This is not the job of the staff or the coaches. Children are not to be running around the gym, in the parking lot or going up and down the stairs in the school. Parents who do choose not to supervise their children will be expelled from the gymnasium and if need be, their child will be dismissed from the program. Do not be offended if our staff speaks with you about your unsupervised children. King's Highway is a very small gym and we want to keep the participants as well as everyone involved in the program safe at all times.

\*Due to the lack of space in this gym, parents that choose to stay for the program may be asked to wait upstairs in the cafeteria as we utilize the gym entirely and there is no place to stand or sit. The safety of our participants is our main concern and we do not want anyone getting hurt. Please do not be offended if the site supervisor asks you to move your location.

There are no animals or pets of any kind allowed in the school facilities at any time.

During inclement weather, muddy shoes and boots will not be allowed in the gym. It is best if the participants carry their sneakers with them into the school and then change their footwear. Parents and spectators must also take note of this policy and abide accordingly.

Everyone must pick up after themselves. The staff and the coaches are not personal attendants for everyone. There is no lost and found so any items that are left behind will be thrown out.

The youth basketball program is limited to the gymnasium only and the closest bathrooms and water fountains, which, at King's Highway is upstairs through the cafeteria. Please listen to both the site supervisor and the hall monitor on instructions where to go. No one is to be roaming the school hallways, in classrooms or the cafeteria. Do not be offended if our staff tells you to leave a place you should not be.

Parents and spectators are expected to show sportsmanship at all times by demonstrating positive behavior and support for all players, coaches and officials. If anyone chooses not to, they will be asked to leave the facility immediately and will be expelled from the program. If the situation warrants, the enrolled child will be dismissed from the program as well. We will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse towards coaches, officials, players, staff or other parents and spectators. Please read the Parent's Code of Ethics at the end of this document. This is the same one you have signed at registration. Please abide by it. We do take this seriously.

### **3. Complaint Procedures:**

If a parent encounters a problem with their child participating in the youth basketball program, please contact your league commissioner in writing, stating your complaint. Make sure you include your child's

name, grade and team he/she is playing on. Once received, the commissioner will review and take the necessary steps to resolve any problems.

#### **4. Unacceptable Behavior:**

Any child exhibiting poor and/or unacceptable behavior consistently will be dismissed from the program with no refund. Discipline problems will not be tolerated. All children are expected to respect the staff, coaches and anyone involved in the youth basketball program.

### **WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION**

The Westport Parks and Recreation Department wants this to be an enjoyable program for both you and your child. We have taken steps to make sure your child is in a setting that we believe is safe and healthy for them. Our coaches are now fully trained, educated and certified through the National Youth Sports Coaches Association.

### **WHAT WE EXPECT OF OUR PARENTS**

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| *Respect the youth sports environment            | *Make only positive, encouraging comments to all |
| *Never criticize a child for making a mistake    | *Respect the officials                           |
| *Focus on the fun and participation, not winning | *Control emotions                                |
| *Get interested in your child's sport            | *Learn the rules of the sport                    |
| *Never undermine team morale                     | *Participate in team activities                  |
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- \*Discuss any concerns away from the players and in particular, the child
  - \*Seek feedback from your child on whether they are having fun or not, and if not, why?
  - \*Make every effort to get the child to practice and games on time
  - \*Refrain from tobacco, drugs and alcohol at all youth basketball events

**All parents should attend the mandatory parent's meeting for their child's team when it is formed. Coaches will contact you to let you know.**

### **PARENT'S CODE OF ETHICS**

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in youth basketball by following this Parent's Code of Ethics Pledge:

- ☺ I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth basketball event.
- ☺ I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- ☺ I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- ☺ I will support coaches and officials working with my child in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- ☺ I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth basketball events.
- ☺ I will remember that the game is for youth – not for adults.
- ☺ I will do my very best to make the youth basketball program fun for my child.
- ☺ I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect

regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

☺ I promise to help my child enjoy the youth basketball experience by doing whatever I can such as being a respectful fan or assisting with coaching.

☺ I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth basketball coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.

## **WHAT WE EXPECT OF OUR PARTICIPANTS**

The following is a list of responsibilities that the Westport Parks and Recreation Department has developed for the participants to adhere to:

Players will listen to their coaches and be respectful of their elders.

Players will take care of the facilities, equipment, and uniforms, which they are given.

Players will make sure to eat the right foods and drink plenty of water before and after practices and games.

Players will avoid all types of taunting and belittling remarks to their teammates or opponents.

Players will show good sportsmanship at all times, win or lose.

Players will not make sports a priority over schoolwork or family.

Players will refrain from horseplay and all other dangerous activities, in which they may become hurt.

Players will participate for the love of the game and competition and not to win at all costs.

### **Players Code of Ethics**

**I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth sports experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Players' Code of Ethics Pledge:**

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot.
- I will expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.
- I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun!
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it's important to me.
- I will do my very best in school.
- I will remember that sports are an opportunity to learn and have fun.

**We ask that you review this manual carefully with your child and help them understand our youth basketball program.**

